GIZ MOS

Slim and sleek

The Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc brings with it a wave of exciting technologies - the Exmor R sensor, the Mobile Bravia Engine - it hits the right numbers too - 4.2 inches, Android 2.3.2, 8.1 megapixels, 8.7mm. It’s an overt design expression, a reaction to the criticism of the Xperia X10, which was fat, sluggish and out-dated. We fell for it when it was announced at CES 2011, but was that just an impulsive marriage at the Chapel O’ Love, or does that relationship have a future?  The Sony Ericsson Xperia Arc is dramatic in its design. The namesake arc sees the phone slim down to 8.7mm at the thinnest point, but it’s not fat at any point. It measures 125 x 63 x 8.7mm according to Sony Ericsson, packing a 4.2-inch display into this frame. The bezel to the sides is kept to the minimum, but if anything, the Xperia Arc appears a little long.

Pocketable and light

The Canon PowerShot SX220 HS is a 14x zoom camera, the follow on from the neat PowerShot SX210 IS of last year. It measures 105.7 x 59.3 x 33.2mm and weighs 215g including the battery (good for around 210 shots). It’s still pocketable and light enough to port around with you but still manages to pack plenty of features and controls into its frame. Inevitably this means there is no real grip for your right hand - you’ll end up with your thumb lying over the controls, resting on the shooting mode dial. The left hand is equally foxed by the pop-up flash, which sits on the left shoulder of the camera, so pretty much where your left index finger will be sitting.

Personal video recorder

The Freesat audience may comprise Sky wobblers and value seekers, but that doesn’t mean they should be denied a little innovation to call their own. Enter the HDS-600RS, world’s first personal video recorder with integrated Slingbox. The brand responsible for this eminently sensible marriage is Echostar. The HDS-600RS looks predictably avant-garde. There seems to be an unwritten rule that anything from the Sling stable has to be an odd shape with dimples. And as if this Kerry Katona edict isn’t enough, the unit comes with nine bright red touch-sensitive graphics ranged across the front panel. This HDS-600RS is nothing if not an attention seeker.  Even the remote handset has a weird triangular design.